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Policy developments with impact on biomass use in the European Union

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BIO4ECO Final Conference

17 - 18 September 2020



Policies with impact on biomass use

- 1. Biomass related work at UNECE and FAO in Geneva**
- 2. United Nations framework agreements**
- 3. Public policy and other regulatory instruments**

Policies with impact on biomass use

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1. UNECE - FAO Work

UNECE Region



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1. UNECE - FAO Work Bioenergy*



Rice Straw

Rice Husk

Paper Mill Waste

Bark

Sawdust



Peat

Wood Chips

Nut Shells

Wheat Straw

Bagasse

Olive Stones



Corn Cobs
and Stalks

Forest
Residue

Cotton Stalks

Cotton Ginning
Solid Waste

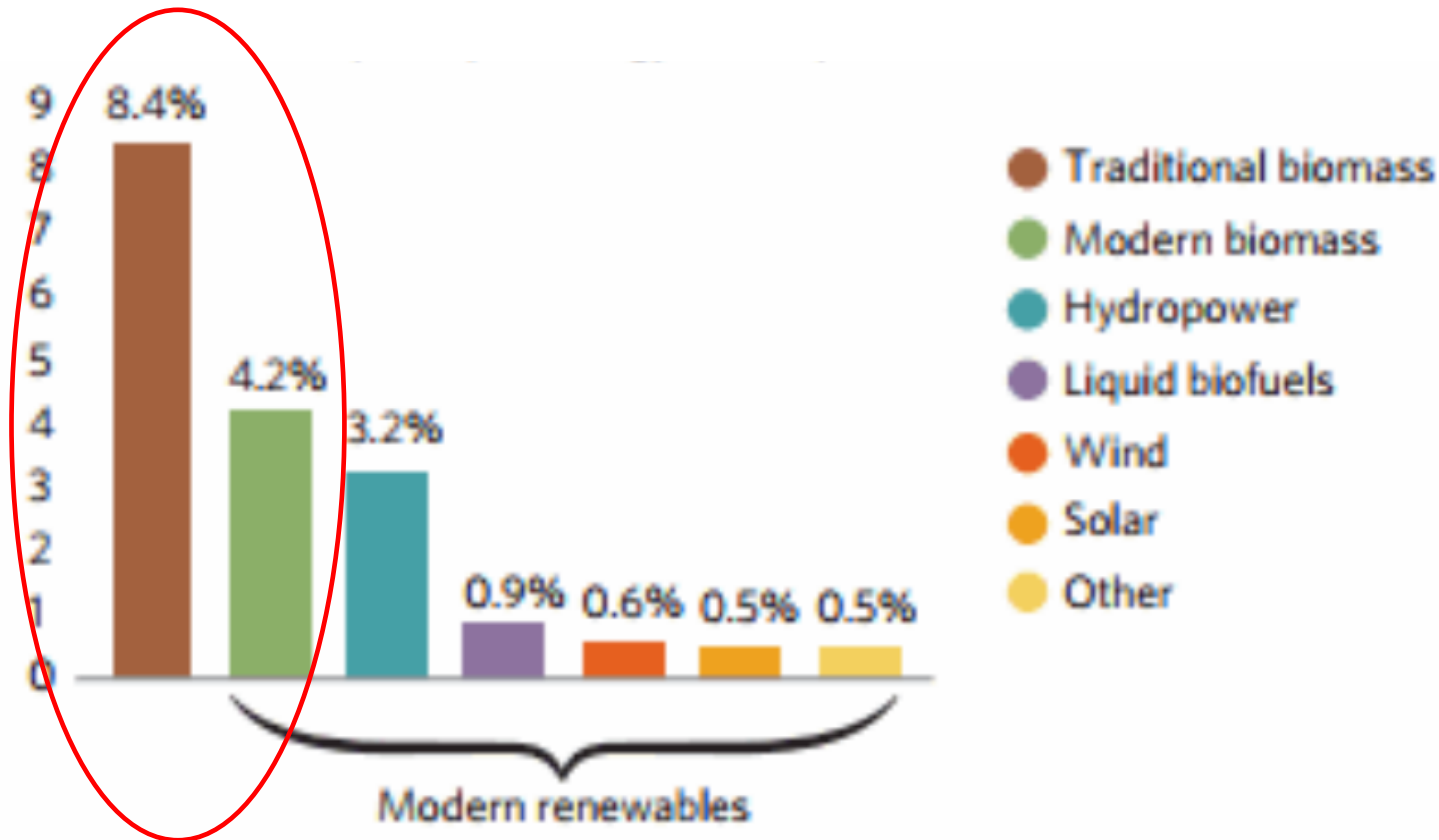
Energy Crops

- traditional biomass
- modern biomass and biofuels

*World Energy Council

1. UNECE - FAO Work

Renewables in global final energy consumption*



Source: *Forests and Bioenergy*, United Nations Forum on Forests, 2018



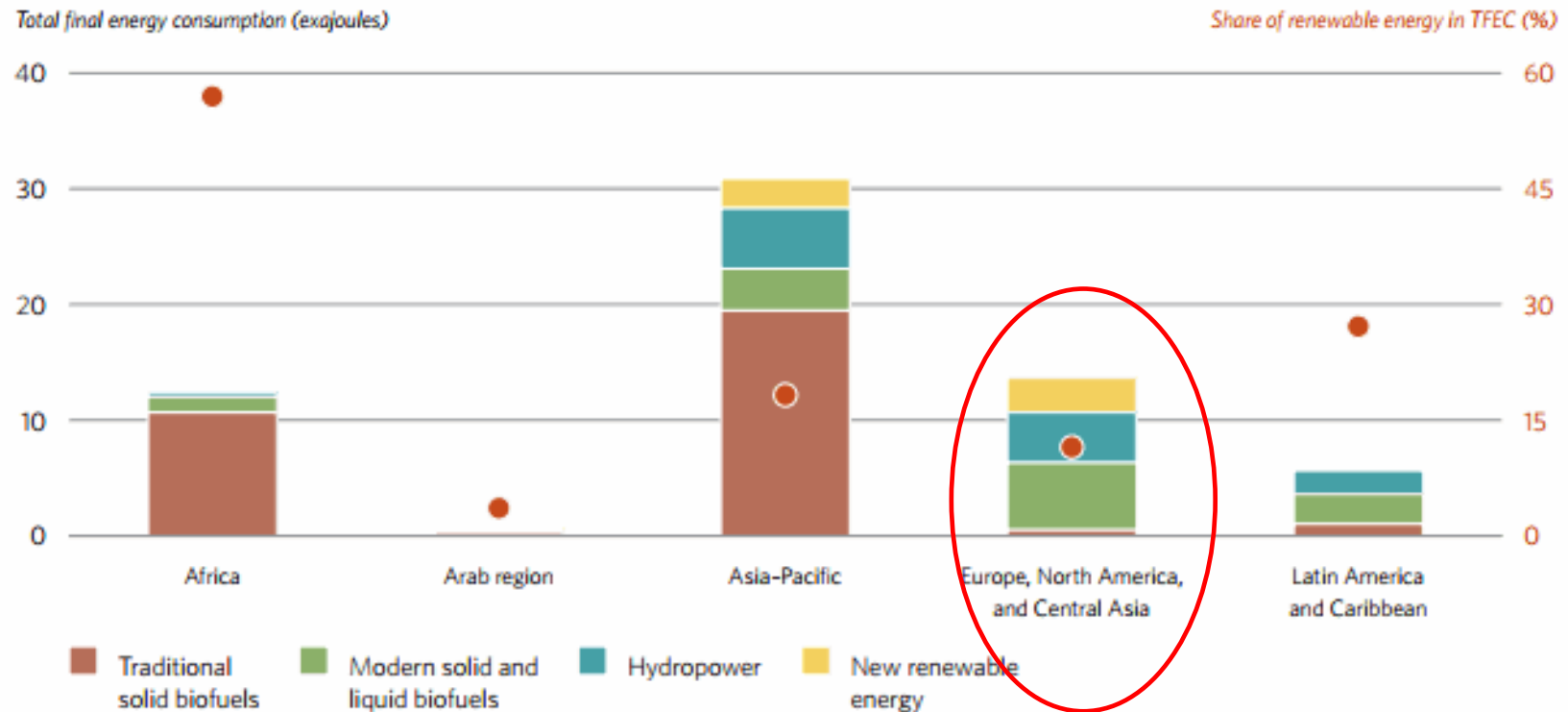
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1. UNECE - FAO Work

Biomass energy use by region



Source: *Forests and Bioenergy*, United Nations Forum on Forests, 2018



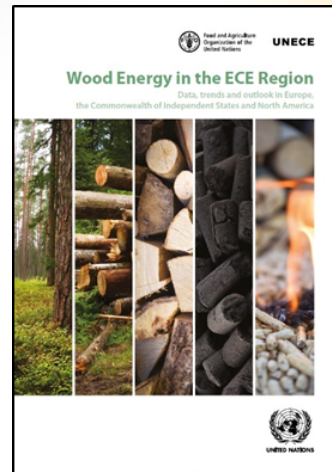
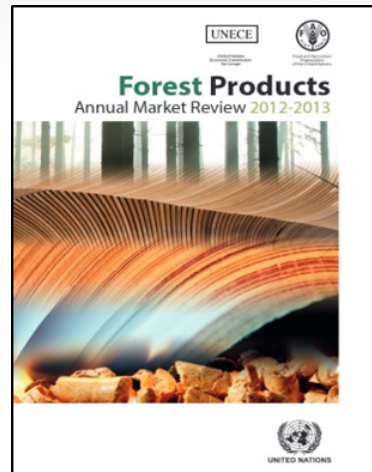
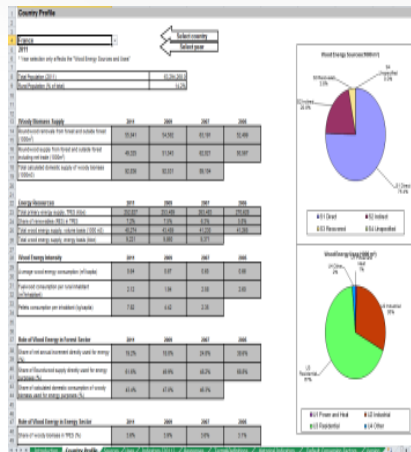
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- **INSIGHT - data monitoring and assessment**
- **IMPACT – knowledge sharing & capacity building in the UNECE region**

Connection between the forest and energy sectors



Wood Energy



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Sources

1. Primary solid biomass (from Forests/Outside Forests)

- Industrial Roundwood (thousand m³)
- Fuelwood (thousand m³)
- ... of which from short rotation coppice (thousand m³)

2. Solid and liquid biomass from forest based industries

- Chips and Particles (thousand m³)
- Wood Residues (thousand m³)
- Bark (thousand m³)
- Black Liquor (thousand t)
- Crude tall oil (thousand t)

3. Municipal solid waste/biodegradables

- Non-hazardous wood waste (thousand t)
- Hazardous wood waste (thousand t)
- Unspecified wood waste (thousand t)

Unknown origin

- Wood from unknown sources (thousand m³)

m³ = cubic meters solid wood equivalents, t = tonnes

Joint Wood Energy Enquiry

Uses

Main Activity Producer

- Electricity
- Combined Heat and Power (CHP)
- Heat
- Unspecified

Industry Sector

- Pulp and Paper
- Wood and wood products
- Other industry
- Unspecified

Other direct final consumption

- Residential
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- Commercial and Public Service
- Transport Sector
- Other
- Unspecified

Wood Energy



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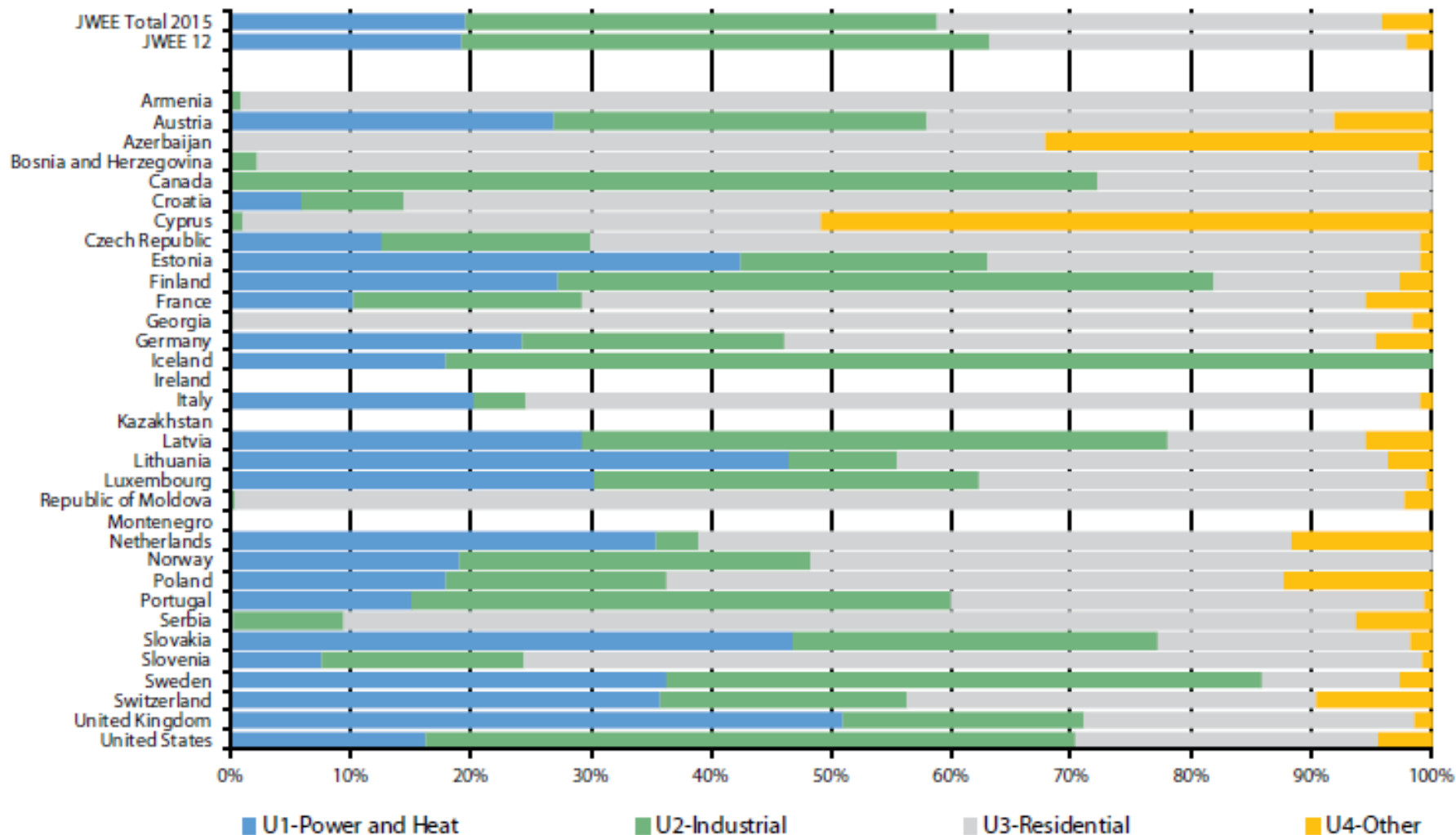
Wood Energy



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1. UNECE/FAO Work

Wood energy sources and uses – related policies

PUBLIC POLICY INSTRUMENTS:

Rules and regulations, Incentives,
Research and education

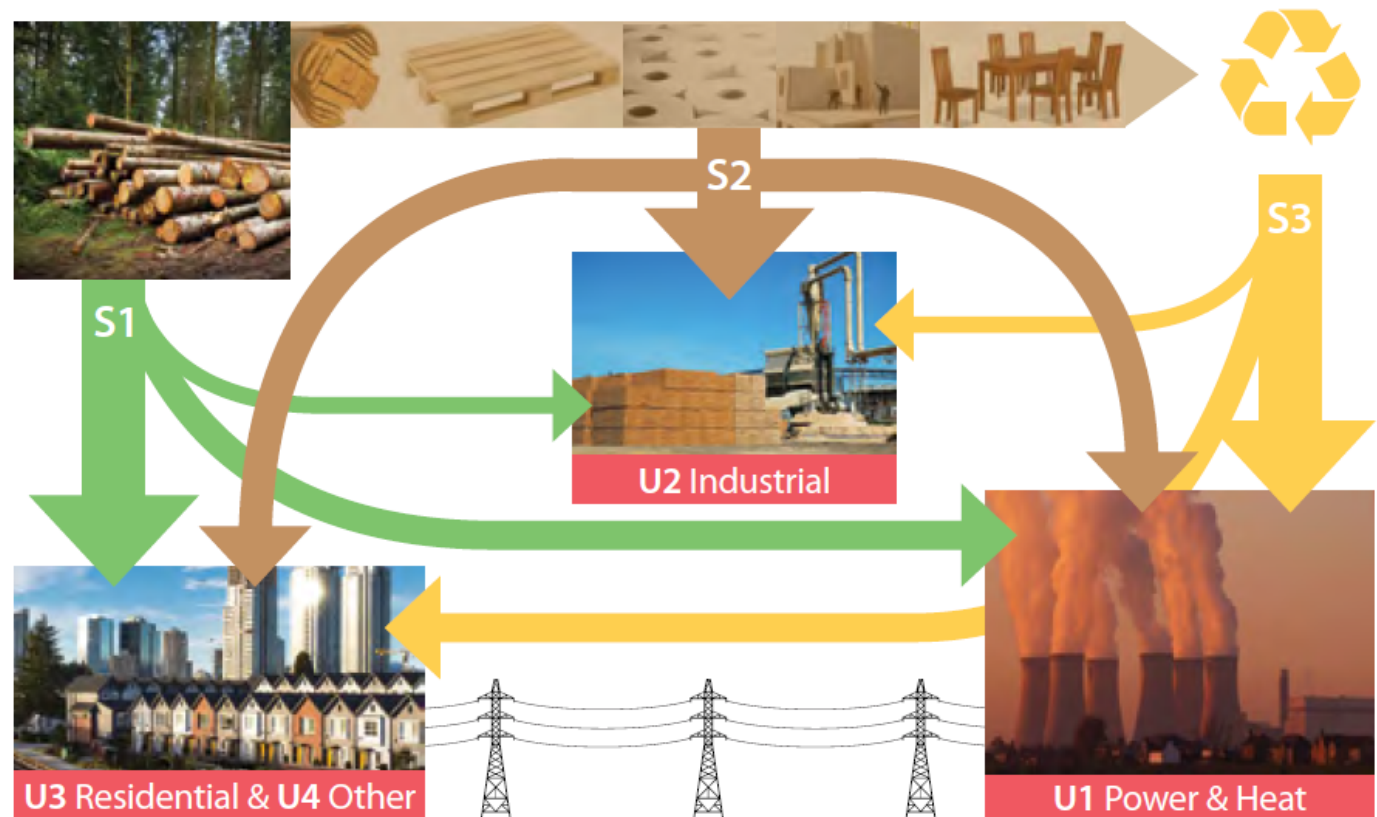
Sources, growth, collection, processing

- Recommended/required management practices
- Eligible energy feedstocks
- Eligible lands

Energy conversion & use

- Contribution to energy portfolios
- Reduction in emissions
- Minimum conversion and consumption efficiency thresholds

WOOD ENERGY SOURCES AND USES



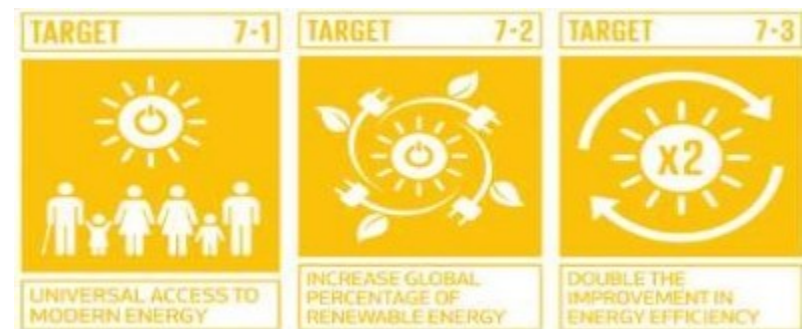
Policies with impact on biomass use

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2. United Nations Agreements

Sustainable Development Goals

- Forests, as a source of bioenergy, are essential to contributing to SDG7 targets
 - Universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services (SDG7.1),
 - Increased substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix (SDG7.2),
 - Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency (SDG7.3).



2. United Nations Agreements

Sustainable Development Goals

Key messages

- Forest and wood products play a pivotal role in meeting the targets in SDG7, but we have not been the best steward of forests and for wood to play an expanded role in meeting those SDG7 targets.
- We have to demonstrate that forest management plays a role in the energy security and climate change discussions.

2. United Nations Agreements

Global Forest Goals



- **UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030** - global framework for action at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests, and to halt deforestation and forest degradation.
- It features **6 Global Forest Goals** and 26 associated targets, which are voluntary and universal, to be achieved by 2030.
- Implementation framework: **Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs)**

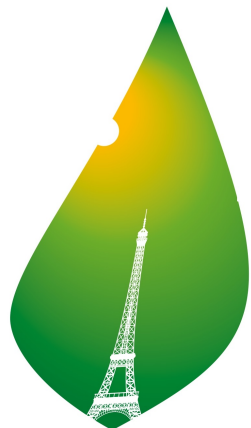
2. United Nations Agreements

Global Forest Goals



- **GOF 1** Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management (...)
- **GOF 2** Enhance forest based economic, social and environmental benefits (...)
- **GOF 3 Increase significantly the area of protected forests (...) [and] the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests**
 - **Wood for energy and fuelwood, including sustainable use of woody biomass**
- **GOF 4** Mobilize (...) financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and (...) partnerships
- **GOF 5** Promote sustainable governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management (...)
- **GOF 6** Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels (...)

Source: UNFF, https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/UNSPF_AdvUnedited.pdf



COP21 • CMP11
PARIS 2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

United Nations Agreements

Paris Agreement

- National carbon reductions set by the Paris Agreement are voluntary
- Signatory countries meet the Agreement to by developing **nationally determined contributions** (NDC)
- The potential role that wood energy could play in national portfolios vary from country to country
- All EU countries (except Lithuania & Slovakia) submitted the same NDC – but bioenergy is not mentioned there*

*Source: UN NDC register Aug 2020 <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/Pages/LatestSubmissions.aspx>



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3. **Public policy and other regulatory instruments**



3. Public policy

Trade related

- **Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT)**
 - Accounts for 80% of the EU's tropical timber imports.
 - 15 tropical countries are negotiating or implementing Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs)
 - Ratified – Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Ghana, Liberia, the Republic of Congo, Indonesia and Vietnam
 - Being negotiated - Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Laos, Guyana, Honduras,
 - Negotiations with Gabon and Malaysia have stalled but have not stopped altogether.

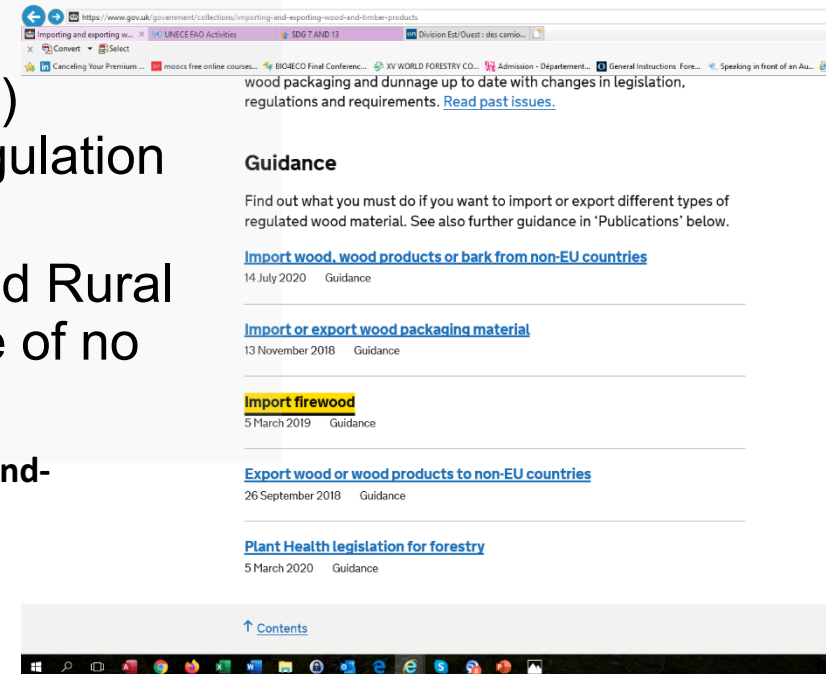
Source: Chatham House, August 2020

3. Public Policy

Trade related

- **Canada** Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in 2017 removing 98% of the preexisting tariffs between the two parts.
- **Brexit possible impact**
 - Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT)
 - United Kingdom Timber Regulation (UKTR) introduced to align with the EU Timber Regulation (2018)
 - Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - guidance on trading timber in case of no Brexit deal

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-timber-imports-and-exports-if-theres-no-brexit-deal>



3. Regulatory instruments

Woody biomass certification



- **ENPLUS** - world-leading, independent certification scheme for wood pellets
 - 1021 Certified companies (Aug 2020)
 - 13.1 million tonnes estimated production (Aug 2020)
 - 45 countries certified globally (2018)
 - 70% of European pellets heating market (2017)

3. Regulatory instruments

Woody biomass certification

- **Sustainable Biomass System**
- Created in 2013
- Global outreach:
 - Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, UK, US.
 - It recognizes FSC and PEFC while seeking to develop specific solutions for biomass producers
 - 2017 – 46% of the EU pellet consumption was certified
 - 2018 - 65%



Policy support to sustainable wood energy supply

Conclusions

- There is a plethora of public policies and regulations affecting bioenergy use in the European Union
- Administration and implementation of policy programmes in forest/ agriculture and energy sectors are often led by separate institutions
- Public policy affecting wood energy should seek integration of renewable energy generation strategies with sustainable forest management
- Policy instruments (rules, regulations, incentives) supporting wood energy development are more influential where formal wood supply chains are already in place





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Thank you!



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